

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for the production of a report on:

*“Persons with disabilities in the context of the climate crisis: Impacts, challenges, and pathways for inclusive climate action”*



Requesting organisation	Fédération Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion 138 avenue des Frères Lumière CS 78378, 69371 LYON CEDEX 08, FRANCE
Requesting service	Protection and Risk Reduction Technical Division, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Unit
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Duration of the service	Approximately 60 days, to be delivered before 31/12/2022
Location of the service	Flexible
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## I. Background.

### A. Presentation of HI (How will the report fit within our work?)

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is an independent and impartial aid organization founded in 1982, working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. HI is currently delivering projects in about 50 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia. In 2020, 3,969,593 persons received direct assistance through the actions implemented by HI or its partners.

Among its diverse sectors of intervention, HI is actively engaged in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), with a focus on addressing intersectional inequalities and inclusion in order to leave no one behind. For over 20 years, HI has been implementing a twin track approach combining inclusive DRR projects on the ground for and with at-risk communities and individuals, as well as capacity-building and policy-influencing efforts directed at DRR practitioners and policy makers, in order to foster and mainstream inclusion into their plans, policies and practices.

In light of the escalating, cascading and compounding impacts of climate change globally, particularly affecting poorer countries, regions, and the people that HI support, we have been gradually scaling up and expanding our climate adaptation work, while maintaining a sharp focus on intersectional inequalities and inclusion. This has materialized with the adoption of an institutional strategy aimed at *“Increasing the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities severely affected by the sudden and progressive effects of climate change”*.

The strategy involves three main components, with various sub-priorities:

- Strengthening the capacity to manage climate-induced disaster risks and to build climate-resilient livelihoods at the individual, household and community level in climate-vulnerable settings;
- Improve climate change preparedness within the services, economic activities and markets that climate-vulnerable populations depend on, as well as the continuity of service delivery in climate-induced disaster settings;
- Influence local, national and global climate governance processes to be more inclusive of and responsive to the specific needs and perspectives of persons with disabilities and other groups disproportionately impacted by climate change.

The commissioning of this report falls under the third component of the strategy.

### B. Context of the report (Why this report?)

The climate crisis combined with environmental degradation is increasingly putting lives and livelihoods at risk all over the world – especially for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities on the frontline of climate change. The IPCC’s<sup>1</sup> Sixth Assessment

Report (AR6) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability published on 28 February 2022 continues to highlight the uneven impacts that climate change is having and will continue to have across regions and communities, as risks will inevitably increase over the next two decades. Among its many findings, the report shares evidence of the current magnitude, intensity and scale of climate change, already compromising our physical and mental health, food and water security, and agricultural productivity.

**Persons with disabilities face disproportionately high levels of risk in the context of climate change** as it exacerbates existing inequalities in accessing a number of services and opportunities, including but not limited to civil protection services, education, economic opportunities, and healthcare. Persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population, representing an estimated 1 billion people. In any given community, they often experience barriers to meaningful participation in society, including inaccessible physical environments and communication systems, stigmatising perceptions, social exclusion and discrimination. Because of these pre-existing barriers and vulnerabilities, persons with disabilities are more likely to experience the negative impacts of climate change differently and more intensely than others, especially in the developing world where they are over-represented and often the poorest in their community. Examples of direct and indirect effects and risks of climate change on persons with disabilities may include:

- Increased risks of death, injury, and trauma as extreme weather events are escalating: Indeed, persons with disabilities are routinely excluded from DRR processes and plans, including early warning systems and evacuation protocols, and are often left behind during disaster as a result. Climate change related information is generally inaccessible. The global mortality rate of persons with disabilities in disaster situations is already up to four times higher than the general population.
- Increased risks of higher poverty levels hampering their capacity to build resilience to climate change: the already precarious situation of many persons with disabilities may worsen as climate change threatens livelihoods and access to resources, driving further impoverishment and limiting adaptation options, including migration.
- Disproportionate threat to the right to health of persons with disabilities: escalating climate disasters will further disrupt access to healthcare services, medication and personal care assistance many persons with disabilities rely on and already struggle to access. Moreover, climate change affects the social determinants of health, and persons with specific disabilities and underlying health conditions are and will continue to be disproportionately exposed to certain climate-sensitive health risks.
- Increased risks of violence, abuse and exploitation: being often neglected in emergency management procedures and humanitarian relief operations, persons with disabilities are and will continue to be particularly vulnerable and exposed to protection risks during and in the aftermath of climate related disasters.

Risks and impacts are particularly magnified for persons experiencing intersecting factors of exclusion (for instance, based on Disability, Gender and Age) which further increase marginalization.

Yet, as evidenced by a recent report on *Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies*<sup>1</sup>, persons with disabilities are being “systematically ignored” when it comes to the climate crisis. Despite them being at high risk, they remain largely excluded from climate change negotiations and policies, as well as in the implementation of subsequent climate-related measures. In light of this failure to include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, advocating for disability-inclusive climate action has gradually gained prominence globally, under the leadership of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) with support from their allies (including but not limited to organizations such as HI). Inclusion of persons with disabilities is increasingly being brought to the fore, including at the most recent Conference of the Parties in Glasgow (COP 26). To support this movement and its objectives, it is critical to carry out initiatives that will help demonstrate why a disability approach is needed to inform climate action and avoid perpetuating inequalities.

## II. Report’s objectives and audience.

### A. Report’s objectives

The aim of this report is to further explore and analyse the different ways in which climate change affects the wellbeing and livelihoods of persons with disabilities, drawing from data collected and analysed in a selection of contexts where HI operates. There is a global momentum to scale up climate action and ensure it is locally led and inclusive, as recommended by the IPCC in its AR 6 report. While it is now widely acknowledged that climate change affects the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people more intensely, and it is anticipated that persons with disabilities will be at increased risk, data on disability and climate change remains limited. To inform ongoing efforts calling for a disability-inclusive approach to climate plans, programmes and policies, there is a critical need to feed the evidence base highlighting the disproportionate impacts of climate shocks and stresses on persons with disabilities.

Through this report, we more specifically wish to:

- Draw on existing and new evidence in the selected countries to **identify how the adverse impacts of climate change affects the human rights of persons** with disabilities in vulnerable situations, particularly in terms of physical and mental integrity, protection and safety, economic opportunities, standard of living and social protection;
- Draw on existing and new evidence to assess the barriers, risks and situations of exclusion faced by persons with disabilities when **accessing services** that help build resilience to the adverse impact of climate change (particularly from a health, including mental health, financial inclusion and civil protection perspectives), while also identifying factors that address barriers and facilitate access to those services;

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<sup>1</sup> *Status Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies*, June 2022, Produced and released jointly by the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program (DICARP) at McGill University and the International Disability Alliance (IDA)

- Draw on existing and new evidence to **assess the level of participation, inclusion and leadership** of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in climate-related politics and public affairs at the local and national levels in the selected countries;
- Provide policy-makers and practitioners with a set of **actionable recommendations and guidance** for improving climate policies, plans and initiatives toward more disability inclusion.

## **B. Targets of the report**

The report will serve the following audience:

- *Governments* involved in climate negotiations and delivering climate finance as well as climate-sensitive Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Ministries of Environment, Ministries of international cooperation, focal points on disability across governmental branches, will be particularly targeted for their role in shaping and influencing policies and allocating resources/investments;
- *International organisations* setting and monitoring global frameworks, agendas and high-level political processes for international development and climate resilience;
- *Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations and networks including OPDs* at international and national levels engaged in climate action from an advocacy and/or implementation perspective;
- Potentially, *the general public* targeted through media.

A dissemination plan will be further outlined and implemented by HI in 2023 once the report is finalized.

## **III. Proposed methodology and ethical considerations**

### **A. Proposed methodology**

A consultant or organization, with expert knowledge on human rights-based approaches and climate change, will be contracted to:

- Support the elaboration of a study protocol;
- Develop data collection tools and implement data collection in line with protocol;
- Provide a draft and final report based on the evidence collected and findings.

The consultant will focus on two countries where HI operates, across Asia and Africa. Specific countries identified are Nepal and Madagascar. By studying these different regions, the report will highlight context specific impacts, as well as barriers and enablers for disability-inclusive climate resilience, while also identifying and conveying overarching, common findings and recommendations emerging from the countries' deep dives despite their differences.

Research questions the report will seek to address include but are not limited to:

- What are the actual humanitarian impacts and risks of climate shocks and stresses on persons with disabilities and those they perceive?
- To what extent persons with disabilities can access services and opportunities that help build resilience to climate change (looking for instance at food security and livelihoods/economic inclusion, civil protection, health and WASH)? What are the barriers and facilitators to access?
- To what extent are persons with disabilities participating meaningfully in climate change planning and decision-making at the local and national level? What are the barriers and facilitators to their meaningful participation?
- What are the findings' implications for programming and policymaking?

The consultant is expected to use a methodology that encompasses the following components and tools to collect data:

- **Desk-based review of literature and secondary data:** documents may include government reports, national climate risk profiles, policy and strategy documents, vulnerability and risk data, and any other already available materials or records relevant to the targeted contexts (from government, NGOs/civil society organisations, multilateral organisations and other research);
- **Primary data collection** through:
  - Field surveys / assessments targeting persons with disabilities, including a focus on women and girls.
  - Focus group discussions with persons with disabilities, as well as their caregivers and support networks within communities, to gain a deeper, qualitative understanding of their life path, how climate change affects them, and collect testimonies;
  - Semi-structured key informant interviews with OPDs and leaders from the disability movement, including women-led CSOs, for more in-depth analysis and their perspective on the situation in the targeted regions;
  - Semi-structured key informant interviews with Service Providers, Experts, local authorities.

## **B. Ethical considerations**

The different steps of production of the report will be implemented in accordance with HI's ethical principles and internal policies. We will develop this activity with all necessary caution, namely by:

- ✓ Ensuring that the report or any other outputs of the study contribute to amplify the voices of the most affected population and to challenge injustice and exclusion, but do not reinforce negative stereotypes, biases, post-colonial thinking or white savior gaze;
- ✓ Ensuring that individual consent is properly collected for every picture, testimony or quote, and ensuring the respect of the dignity of participant's portrait in pictures and testimonies;
- ✓ Respecting copyright and obtaining permissions to use pictures, and including information related to the photographers;

- ✓ Ensuring that the final outputs are never used for commercial purposes.
- ✓ Carefully providing complete references to external sources used in the text of the publication.

*Disability, Gender and Age (DGA) approach:* As all HI activities are underpinned by a commitment to equal access to services for all, we therefore fully recognize the importance of adapting our intervention methods to each specific context, with systematic attention given to disability, gender and age in particular. The organization respects the cultural values, and adapts its methodologies accordingly; seeking innovative ways to mainstream gender in all project activities. We will look into the linkages between disability, gender and age every time it is possible, highlighting the intersecting forms of discriminations, and barriers in the access to services by persons with disabilities.

## IV. Deliverables, timelines and coordination.

### A. Expected outputs and format

The consultancy service will deliver the following products:

- **Elaboration of a written protocol.** Based on the terms of reference provided by HI, the technical proposal of the consultant, and in collaboration with the Report's Manager (contact person), a short research protocol is finalised. This document will present the overall approach, methodology and report outline. The methodological framework will present the study design, selection of participants, data collection, data processing, data analysis, quality monitoring mechanisms; responsibilities of the expert and of HI; timeline; and ethical considerations.
- **Production and implementation of relevant data collection tools.** They can include a matrix for the literature review, quantitative data analysis and interview guides. Interviews or focus groups are organised with selected targets. All collected data is analysed and interpreted against the objectives of the report.
- **Writing of a report, including recommendations.** The main output will be a report evidencing the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities in vulnerable countries, challenges and enablers to build climate resilience. The report will also provide specific recommendations for policy-makers and practitioners to promote and achieve disability-inclusive climate action. The consultant accepts that HI may reproduce the methodological proposal and use the tools developed for data collection as well as the raw data in other contexts or projects.

#### Report's format and style:

- The report should be no longer than 30-40 pages, excluding annexes;
- The report shall include an executive summary;
- The final report shall conform with the standard formatting of HI professional publications;
- The report must identify impacts per humanitarian sectors to the extent possible;

- The report shall include testimonies and human-interest stories, with photos;
- The report must be in an accessible English language, conveying clear messages, with internal coherence, and use of tables, infographics, maps and figures where necessary;
- The report should clearly cite all references used.

## **B. Timeline and service location**

The consultancy service is expected to be completed in approximately 60 days, no later than 31st of December 2022, including report submission and approval. Deliverables / activities are expected to be completed as per the following indicative timeline:

#	Deliverables / Activities	Recipient	Dissemination	Deadline
1	Final Protocol	HI	Internal	1st half of October 2022
2	Final data collection tools	HI	Internal	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of October 2022
3	First draft of the report	HI	Internal	1st half of December 2022
4	Revised, Final report	HI	External	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of December 2022

*\*All deliverables need to be submitted in English.*

Location: The consultancy service involves remote, desk-based work as well as fieldwork. The consultant will operate independently to the management of HI programmes in the targeted countries. Therefore, he/she will arrange for his/her own transportation, accommodation, administrative management of official requests and authorizations, or any other elements that he/she should consider in view of his activity in the country of intervention. However, when support is required and HI has the capacity to assist, HI can facilitate authorizations and access to specific areas of intervention or people.

## **C. Communication and monitoring between the Consultant and HI**

HI's Policy and Development Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation will primarily supervise the recruitment and mission of the consultant, acting as contact person for the consultant for inquiries, clarifications and exchanges. A kick-off briefing will be done in the beginning, in order to provide the Consultant with key information and guidance about the logic, the approach, and the elements to take into consideration. A committee involving relevant experts from HI's Advocacy Division as well as in-house technical specialists and external resource persons will be periodically mobilized and contribute to assessing the quality and adequacy of the deliverables submitted by the consultant.

## V. Estimated level of effort and Payment.

The estimated level of effort for this work is 60 days.

Payment of the service will be made in two installments upon reception of invoices:

- 25% upon signature of the contract;
- The balance upon validation of the final output by HI.

## VI. Requested profile and application procedures.

### A. Consultant's profile

An institution / team of experts, with proven expertise in secondary, quantitative and qualitative data collection, treatment and analysis for the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities in fragile settings. Knowledge of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and human rights-based approaches.

#### Mandatory:

- Minimum Master's degree in a relevant field: Climate change; Social Sciences; Human Rights; Political Science; International Development.
- At least 3 years of experience conducting and publishing research for impact dealing with international development and humanitarian matters;
- Experience with disability inclusion and incorporating intersectionality in research
- Overseas experience in climate resilience programming and interventions at the community-level, related to health, DRR, livelihoods, WASH.
- Understanding of and commitment to human-rights based approaches;
- Have a participatory and constructive approach;
- Excellent analytical, planning and writing skills (in English)
- Understanding and adherence to HI's values and ethics.

#### Desired:

- Experience with an international non-governmental organization;
- Experience in the planned regions / countries an advantage.

### B. Application procedure and materials

Application materials should include:

- A technical proposal not exceeding 4 pages outlining a description of your experience and expertise, your methodological approach for this work including work plan, and management capability;
- A financial proposal in EUR itemizing estimated costs for services rendered (daily consultancy fees) and any other related supplies or services required for the consultancy.
- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the principal researcher / consultant, with references.

- A confirmation of your status as an institution/firm or (in case of individual consultant) independent contractor or employee of consultancy firm or research institution (for contracting purposes).
- At least one sample report similar to that described in these TOR.

Proposals will be ranked according to how they fulfil the following criteria:

- Technical soundness of the offer: 30%
- Financial soundness of the offer : 30%
- Management capability: 20%
- Organizational experience and expertise :20%

**Interested consultants / firms should submit their offer no later than 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022 to:**

Jennifer M'VOUAMA, Policy and Development Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, [J.mvouama@hi.org](mailto:J.mvouama@hi.org), with the following subject line: *“Proposal / Disability-inclusive climate action study”*.